

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EAST ASIA EMERGENT MARKETS PROPOSED TRADE PROMOTION
PROGRAM FOR FY 78

REF: USDOC 13044

1. POST CONCURS WITH PROPOSED BUILDING EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES CATALOG SHOW SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 1978.
2. COMMERCIAL FISHING TRADE MISSION SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 1978 OFFERS LIMITED POTENTIAL 40 HONG KONG AT PRESENT.
3. HK FISHING FLEET CONSISTS OF 5,600 VESSELS (MAINLY WOODEN CHINESE JUNKS), OF WHICH 92 PERCENT ARE MECHANISED. AN ESTIMATE 47,000 FISHERMAN WORK THE FLEET WITH A VERY LARGE PROPORTION OF VESSELS BEING OWNED-OPERATED. IN 1975, TOTAL QUANTITY OF FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS REACHED 150,000 METRIC TONS, IN WHICH MARINE FISH TOTALLED 95,000 METRIC TONS.
4. FISH PONDS (FRESH WATER) TALLING 1,444 HECTARES ARE LOCATED IN NEW TERRITORIES. TOTAL PRODUCTION IN 1975 WAS 4,472 METRIC TONS. CULTURE OF MARINE FISH CONTINUE TO DEVELOP. IT INVOLVES THE GROWING OF MARINE FISH FROM FRY OR FINGERLING STAGES TO MARKETABLE SIZE IN CAGES SUSPENDED IN THE SEA IN VARIOUS BAYS THROUGHOUT THE NEW TERRITORIES. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 830 FAMILY WERE ENGAGED IN THIS BUSINESS IN 1975.

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5. ACCORDINGLY, WE DOUBT THE EFFICACY OF SUCH A TRADE

MISSION TO HONG KONG AND WOULD RECOMMEND CANCELLING IT.

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